



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
on Thursday 9th Oct 2025 at 7.15pm
in Goosnargh Village Hall - Downstairs

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Martin Carefoot
Cllr Barbara Clarke
Cllr Anthony Eccles
Cllr Dave Price
Cllr Michelle Woodburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

2 Police representatives
3 residents re Agenda item 5 - co-option
1 resident re Agenda item 12 - bike trail & crossing
3 residents re Agenda item 14b - Sports Village

Mrs Julie Buttle - Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPT 2025.
MIN 25/26.81 Members **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 25/26.82 Members **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

PCSO Quinn listed the police incidents which included a road traffic collision on Whittingham Lane, a motor vehicle theft on Cumeragh Lane, suspicious activity at Eaves Green Lane and a domestic nuisance report. As the police are now using a marked vehicle in the area, residents should notice an increased police presence and residents are reminded to report all incidents.

It was stated that an electric scooter was regularly causing a nuisance between 5.00 and 5.30, riding on the footpath without lights on the Rogerson Garden estate. The police will monitor.

It was also stated that a car had crashed into a hedge at the S bend just past Haighton Manor. As this has occurred previously, it was questioned if speed was a factor. The police will check the incident with a view to asking LCC to install chevrons or slow signs.

3 residents stated that they were attending to hear the Council's thoughts on the Sports Village consultation and 1 resident stated that they wished to observe the meeting as they had put forward a suggestion for a cycle track and pedestrian crossing.

Further to the Notice advertising a Councillor vacancy in Lower Ward, 3 written expressions of interest were received. The Chairman invited the 3 residents to introduce themselves and detail their reasons for applying for co-option.

Following the individual presentations, the public were requested to leave the room whilst Members discussed the vacancy. During the adjournment, Members reflected on the written submissions and the individual presentations before inviting the public back into the room.

The Chairman stated that it had been a difficult decision as each candidate had individual strengths to bring to the Council. However, following a vote, a majority of Members felt the Council would be strengthened by the communication and marketing skills offered by Lauren Chattein. He encouraged the unsuccessful applicants to utilise their skills by getting involved with local groups such as the Village Hall Committee, Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom, the Fete and the Heritage Group. He also reminded everyone that there will be opportunities to work closely with the Parish Council, shaping plans to bring St John Church back in to community use.

CO-OPTION VACANCY

MIN 25/26.83 It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Lauren Chattein to the Council and she duly signed the Declaration of Office.

The Clerk will advise the City Council of the appointment, arrange an induction session, update the website and notice boards and activate a Councillor email address.

LONGRIDGE SPORTS VILLAGE

Members were informed of a consultation to create a sports village on the Preston / Longridge boundary which includes 250 affordable homes to be provided by Community Gateway.

<https://longridge-sportsvillage.co.uk>

It was proposed that the item be brought forward on the agenda as 3 members of the public were present to hear the discussion.

Members of the public expressed a view that Goosnargh, Grimsargh and Ribchester are bottlenecks which become congested with traffic. Additional homes will add to the traffic levels.

Parking is particularly bad on match days with motorists manoeuvring in driveways and parking on both sides of the roads. It was stated that the new sports facilities will add to the difficulties; however, it was also reported that a dance club was organising a petition in favour of the proposal as the club would benefit from improved premises and parking.

Prior to the meeting, concerns had been expressed regarding the use of Old Clay Lane and the advertisement of a new electrical supply.

Those present were informed that following legal advice, LCC have altered Old Clay Lane from a Public Right of Way to a Restricted Byway - which restricts public rights of access by motor vehicles – and Electricity North West have confirmed that whilst they have advertised a new electrical connection, it is to serve one consumer. It is not in connection with the Sports Village.

Through the Clerk, the developer has clarified that

- the access points from Clay Lane will be for pedestrian and cycle use only
- the football club carpark will remain self-contained
- there will be a single vehicular access from Chipping Lane
- the Inglewhite Road access point will be for pedestrian and cycle use only - although it may serve as a controlled emergency vehicle access
- a full transport assessment will be carried out, including surveys and junction modelling, to ensure traffic moves smoothly and efficiently.

Members stated that on paper the proposal sounds attractive as it will expand sports provision and create 100% affordable housing, however, 250 affordable homes are considered excessive for the area and there is a risk that the housing will be expanded if the sports provision isn't considered viable.

It was also noted that residents would have access to the services and facilities in Longridge which has been identified as a 'key service centre' in the Ribble Valley Local Plan.

In terms of the consultation, it was noted that it sought views on the type of homes and sports facilities offered and it requested feedback on the open space provision but it did not consider if there was a local need for affordable homes or the impact of the additional traffic.

MIN 25/26.84 Members **RESOLVED a)** not to respond to the consultation, preferring instead to respond fully to all planning related matters, as and when an application is submitted and **b)** to contact Longridge Town Council to ascertain their views on the proposed development.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st – 30th Sept 2025

MIN 25/26.85 Members **RESOLVED** to note that the following accounts have been paid in accordance with Standing Order 2023 15 (xii).

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	PAY REF
Printing of the Summer Newsletter	City Council	£306.25	Ref 87
Replace balancing logs at Cumeragh	Greenbanks	£288.00	Ref 88
Sept Parish Lengthsman contract	Mark Cornforth	£486.00	Ref 89
16 th Sept Football pitch mowing contract	Millars	£204.00	Ref 90
50% deposit for Cumeragh play repairs	Playdale	£710.10	Ref 91

The Chairman verified that the Sept finance and bank statements had been reconciled.

HALF YEARLY BUDGET ANALYSIS APR 25 – SEPT 25

The Clerk presented a report which showed the approved budget for 2025/26, the expenditure to date and the remaining budget available. Members **NOTED** that the income is reduced as LCC are not be offering the Public Right of Way grant during 2025/26.

The budget includes provision for a Christmas tree at Beacon Drive. Historically, this has been provided by Barton Grange as this satisfies the risks assessments associated with supplying, erecting, lighting and removing the tree. Nurture have taken over from Barton Grange and although a 'loyalty' discount has been applied, the quote has doubled.

MIN 25/26.86 As the tree needs to be ordered by 31st October, Members **RESOLVED** to approve the quote, noting the need to source quotes from alternative suppliers in 2026/27.

MIN 25/26.87 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis, noting that CIL interest is being used to fund the Lengthsman's role and the maintenance at Cumeragh play area.

ORDERING OF POPPY WREATHS

In addition to £40 for 2 poppy wreaths, in Oct 2024, Members expressed a desire to add approx. 20 poppies to the lamp posts on Church Lane at a cost of £3 each. The Clerk has applied for the necessary license to display them.

MIN 25/26.88 Members **RESOLVED** to approve a £100.00 cheque donation to the Royal British Legion under S137 of the Local Govt Act 1972 to purchase the wreaths and lamp post poppies which will be erected by the Parish Lengthsman.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

MIN 25/26.89 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following accounts for payment

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	METHOD
Clerk Salary Oct	J Buttle	£1627.08	BACs
PAYE	HMRC	£231.29	BACs
Employer Nat Ins	HMRC	£224.57	BACs
Pension	NEST	£97.65	DD
Jul - Sept expenses	J Buttle	£39.00	BACs
30 th Sept football pitch mowing	Millars	£204.00	BACs
Oct Grounds maintenance contract	Millars	£840.00	BACs
Electric Bill	E-ON	£18.52	DD

CONSIDERATION OF 2026/27 BUDGET ITEMS

Members were requested to advise the Clerk of any new budget items so that the costs can be included in the draft budget for 2026/27 to be considered at the November meeting.

The Chairman requested that the Clerk seeks an update on the commemorative tree for Cllr Marginson and suggested that the Parish Plan is added to the November agenda as it details projects the Council wishes to deliver.

The Clerk **NOTED** a suggestion to expand the Parish Walks – which will be financed through CIL - and a suggestion to increase the budget by £5,000 for the marketing of brochures and leaflets.

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COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – FINANCES & APPROVED PROJECT UPDATES

MIN 25/26.90 Member **RESOLVED** to approve the CIL Finance Plan which shows a balance of £623,103. The Clerk confirmed that more CIL monies were due at the end of October.

The CIL Business Plan confirms that the Parish Council has ringfenced £50,000 of CIL funds (Cat 1) to erect gym equipment on the Village Green and has also set aside £14,000 (Cat 2) to contribute towards the upgrade of the play equipment in Goosnargh play area.

Agenda item 11 requested that Members approve the CIL Finance Plan and note the updates on the CIL Business Plan. Agenda item 11b requested that Members comment on the suitability of the multi-use play unit which the City Council are proposing to replace in the play area.

Cllr Price stated that as the multi-use play equipment was used more, the funding for the gym equipment should be withdrawn and re-allocated to the multi-use play unit.

The Clerk advised that the withdrawal of the gym funding could have adverse impacts for the Parish Council, partly because the provision of youth facilities was a need identified by residents and partly because the gym equipment is in Category 1 of the CIL Business plan and Members have already instructed the City Council to commence the procurement process.

In addition, at a meeting in December last year, the City Council stated that they have a play strategy which details play standards across the City and as Whittingham has been earmarked for expansion, the City Council have indicated that the multi-use equipment will be replaced.

Whilst Members have agreed to contribute £14,000 towards the replacement equipment, the City Council have not requested additional funding from the Parish Council and if a request is received, any increase to the £14,000 would need to be a formal agenda item.

Cllr Price proposed that the Parish Council should not go ahead with the gym project until the City Council have replaced the multi-use equipment.

MIN 25/26.91 Members unanimously **RESOLVED** not to accept the proposal.

a) BENCHES

The agenda itemised progress on the decision to upgrade various benches and seats within the parish. A quote for £326.40 was received to repair the seats outside Goosnargh shops with composite slats. As the amount could be paid from the estimated CIL budget, the Clerk ordered the slats under delegated authority.

MIN 25/26.92 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the decision and pay the invoice.

The Clerk requested that the City Council remove some concrete bench ends from Cumeragh Village at a cost of £30.00 under delegated authority.

MIN 25/26.93 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the decision and pay the invoice.

b) GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN – PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT

Preston City Council have advised that they need to replace the multi-use play equipment in Goosnargh play area and they are hoping to install the equipment before the end of March so that it is ready for Easter. As the Parish Council has allocated £14,000 towards the project, the Clerk requested that Members are given an opportunity to comment on the replacement.

MIN 25/26.94 Members **RESOLVED** to reply that the scale and quality of the equipment seems appropriate for the play area.

The Clerk will request that any timing slippage is reported to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

c) MEMORIAL

Members noted that the 2 Tommy Statues will be installed prior to Remembrance Day

The vegetation at the side of the Memorial has been assessed by the Lengthsman and Cllr Eccles, however due to the scale of the work, it may be necessary to use Millars to access the higher trees and remove the vegetation.

MIN 25/26.95 Members **RESOLVED** to allocate £500 towards the removal of the vegetation.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – NEW PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

CYCLE TRAIL – After children tried to install a cycle jump / ramp in the grounds of the former hospital site, it was suggested that the Parish Council uses CIL monies to create some form of cycle trail. Land at Bleasdale Road was suggested as it is owned by Homes England.

Members were supportive of the idea and Cllr Eccles suggested that Members visited the facility that has been provided on Longridge recreation ground. As the youngsters are utilising space in the former hospital grounds, it was suggested that the idea should be discussed with Barratts but wherever it is proposed, it was stressed that the community needs to be consulted.

MIN 25/26.96 Members **RESOLVED** to add the item to Category 2 of the CIL business plan so that the Clerk and Members can make further enquiries.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – It has also been noticed that children from Rogerson Garden's are crossing Cumeragh Lane to access Cumeragh Green play area and a pedestrian crossing has been suggested.

Members **NOTED** that as this can only be provided with the agreement of LCC Highways, the Clerk has approached them for comments. The reply will be circulated and if necessary, Members can propose any further action.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH – FEASIBILITY STUDY

Members **NOTED** that the preferred bidder has been contacted and a site meeting has been arranged to view the Church and attend a pre-contractual meeting, with a view to agreeing the finer details of the Feasibility Study before signing the Agreement.

Homes England have also confirmed that they will refrain from marketing the site and will disengage from any active promotion for a period of 6 months to give the Parish Council an opportunity to conclude the Feasibility Study.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

MIN 25/26.97 Members **RESOLVED** to support the delegated 'no objection' response on the following summarised applications

06/2025/0939 2 storey rear extension at Camforth Hall Barn, Camforth Hall Lane.

06/2025/1012 Single storey side extension at 69 Cumeragh Lane.

LOCAL PLAN - Members **NOTED** that hearing sessions for the Local Plan will commence on the 2nd Dec at Preston Town Hall. The inspector has issued a document detailing the Matters, Issues and Questions that he will focus on during the hearings. Housing allocations for Preston will be discussed on the 4th Dec. It is unclear at this stage if the merits of specific sites will be discussed but the Clerk will register a place to observe the proceedings in case Members wish to attend.

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB - Members **NOTED** that work has commenced on site.

LCC PRIMARY SCHOOL PROPOSAL – 06/2025/0019

An email was received asking if Members would be available to attend a meeting to review proposals regarding the road layouts for the proposed school. Cllrs Chattein, Eccles, Price and Woodburn indicated that they wished to attend.

MIN 25/26.98 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact LCC to arrange the meeting.

Members **NOTED** that the Clerk also contacted LCC to request details of the 'temporary village' to be created whilst building work starts. LCC acknowledged the email but replied by stating that they need more time to reply.

FORMER HOSPITAL SITE DEVELOPMENT

Cllr Woodburn stated that Barratts had met with the resident on Tattersall Road and had agreed a series of measures to alleviate her concerns with regards to the management of the open space. The Clerk was thanked for the assistance given.

Notwithstanding the above, the Parish Council raised several points in response to the planning application which related to the management of the open space and it is suggested that the Council forms a working group to discuss concerns with Barratts, so that development and maintenance concerns can be discussed between Parish Council meetings.

MIN 25/26.99 Cllrs Woodburn, Eccles and Price indicated that they wished to be involved and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Barratts to arrange the meeting.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE COMPLAINT

Members were informed of a complaint concerning poor maintenance by Prospect Homes at the former Ridings site off Whittingham Road.

As the situation breaches the S106 Agreement attached to the planning consent, the City Council have stated that the matter is being dealt with by the City Council's legal team.

MIN 25/26.100 The Clerk was requested to establish the timescales involved.

LCC PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL CONFERENCE, LALC & PAC MEETINGS

Members **NOTED**

- a) the notes of the Sept Preston Area Committee meeting which were emailed to all. The next meeting is scheduled for the 10th December.
- b) Lancashire County Council will host the annual Parish and Town Council Conference on Sat 1 Nov 2025 in County Hall, Preston at 9.30am. After the conference, the Lancashire Association of Local Councils will hold its AGM.

MIN 25/26.101 Members **RESOLVED** not to submit a Motion to LALC's AGM, however, the Clerk will book 2 places at LCC's Annual conference as Cllr Carefoot and Cllr Chattein indicated that they would like to attend.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members **NOTED** that Cumeragh received an award in the Best Kept Village competition.

Cllr Price indicated he would attend the event to reopen Whitechapel Village Hall on Sat 18th Oct at 11.00.

DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13th Nov 2025 at 7.15pm in Goosnargh Village Hall.

END